

**A solemn League and Covenant, for Reformation and Defence of Religion,
The Honour and Happinesse of the KING, and the Peace and safety
of the three Kingdoms of England, Scotland, and Ireland.**

WE Noblemen, Barons, Knights, Gentlemen, Citizens, Burgeses, Ministers of the Gospel, and Commons of all sorts in the Kingdoms of England, Scotland, and Ireland, by the providence of God living under one King, and being of one Reformed Religion, having before our eyes the glory of God, and the advancement of the Kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, the honour and happinesse of the Kings Majesty, and His posterity, and the true publick liberty, safety and peace of the Kingdoms, wherein everyones private condition is included, and calling to mind the treacherous and bloody plots, conspiracies, attempts, and practices of the enemies of God against the true Religion, and professors thereof in all places; especially in these three Kingdoms ever since the Reformation of Religion, and how much their rage, power, and presumption are of late, and at this time increased and exercised: whereas the miserable estate of the Church and Kingdom of Ireland, the distressed estate of the Church and Kingdom of England, and the dangerous estate of the Church and Kingdom of Scotland, are present and publick Testimonies; We have now at last (after other meanes of supplication, remonstrance, protestations, and sufferings) for the preservation of our selves and our religion from utter ruine and destruction, according to the commendable practice of these Kingdoms in former times, and the examples of Gods people in other Nations; after mature deliberation, resolved and determined to enter into a mutuall and solemn League and Covenant, wherein we all subscribe, and each one of us for himself, with our hands lifted up to the most High God, doe swear:

- I. **T**hat we shall sincerely, really and constantly, through the grace of God, endeavour in our severall places and callings, the preservation of the Reformed Religion in the Church of Scotland, in doctrine, worship, discipline and government, against our common enemies, the Reformation of Religion in the Kingdoms of England and Ireland, in doctrine, worship, discipline and government, according to the word of God, and the example of the best Reformed Churches; And shall endeavour to bring the Churches of God in the three Kingdoms, to the nearest conjunction and uniformity in Religion, Confession of Faith, form of Church-government, Directory for Worship and Catechizing; That we and our posterity after us may as Brethren live in Faith and Love, and the Lord may delight to dwell in the midst of us.
- II. That we shall in like manner, without respect of persons, endeavour the extirpation of Popery, Prelacy, (that is, Church-government, by Arch. Bishops, Bishops, their Chancellours and Commissaries, Deans, Deans and Chapters, Archdeacons, and all other Ecclesiasticall Officers depending on that Hierarchy) Superstition, Heresie, Schism, Profanenesse, and whatsoever shall be found to be contrary to sound Doctrine, and the power of Godlinesse; lest wee partake in other mens sinnes, and thereby be in danger to receive of their plagues, and that the Lord may bee one and his Name one in the three Kingdoms.
- III. We shall with the same sincerity, reality and constancy, in our severall Vocations, endeavour with our estates and lives, mutually to preserve the Rites and Priviledges of the Parliaments, and the Liberties of the Kingdoms, and to preserve and defend the Kings Majesties person and authority, in the preservation and defence of the true Religion, and Liberties of the Kingdoms, that the world may bear witness with our consciences of our Loyaltie, and that we have no thoughts or intentions to diminish His Majesties just power and greatnesse.
- IV. We shall also with all faithfulness endeavour the discovery of all such as have been, or shall be Incendiaries, Malignants, or evil instruments, by hindering the Reformation of Religion, dividing the King from his people, or one of the Kingdoms from another, or making any Faction, or parties among the people, contrary to this League and Covenant, that they may be brought to publick tryall, and receive condigne punishment, as the degree of their offences shal require or deserve, or the supreme Judicatories of both Kingdoms respectively, or others having power from them for that effect, shall judge convenient.
- V. And whereas the happinesse of a blessed Peace between these Kingdoms, denied in former times to our Progenitors, is by the good providence of God granted unto us, and hath been lately concluded, and settled by both the Parliaments, we shall each one of us, according to our place and interest, endeavour that they may remain conjoynd in a firm peace and union to all posterity; And that Justice may be done upon the wilfull opposers thereof, in manner expressed in the precedent Articles.
- VI. We shall also according to our places and callings in this common cause of Religion, Liberty, and Peace of the Kingdoms, assist and defend all those that enter into this League and Covenant, in the maintaining and pursuing thereof, and shall not suffer our selves directly or indirectly by whatsoever combination, perswasion, or terror, to be divided and withdrawn from this blessed Union and conjunction, whether to make defection to the contrary part, or to give our selves to a detestable indifferency or neutrality in this cause, which so much concerneth the glory of God, the good of the Kingdoms, and the honour of the King; but shall all the dayes of our lives, zealously and constantly continue therein against all opposition, and promote the same according to our power, against all let and impediments whatsoever; and what we are not able our selves to suppress or overcome, we shall reveale and make known, that it may be timely prevented or removed; All which we shall doe as in the sight of God.

And because these Kingdoms are guilty of many sinnes and provocations against God, and his Sonne Jesus Christ, as is too manifest by our present distresses and dangers, we therefore do hereby protest and declare before God and the world, our unsained desire to be humbled for our own sinnes, and for the sinnes of these Kingdoms, especially that we have not as yet attained the inestimable benefit of the Gospel, that we have not laboured for the purity and power thereof, and that we have not endeavored to receive Christ inwardly, nor to have his dwelling in our lives, which are the cause of other sinnes and transgressions so much abounding amongst us; And our true and unsained purpose, desire, and intention, for our selves and all others under our power and charge, both in publick and in private, in all duties that we owe to God and man, to amend our lives, and each one to go before death in the true Reformation, that the Lord may turn away his wrath and heavy indignation, and establish these Churches and Kingdoms in truth and peace. And this Covenant we do in the presence of Almighty God the Searcher of all hearts, with a true intention to performe the same, as we shall answer at that great day, when the secrets of all hearts shall be discovered. And we do hereby beseech the Lord to strengthen us by his Holy Spirit for this end, and to bless our desires and proceedings with such success, as may be deliverance and joy to our selves, and encouragement to other Christian Churches groaning under, or in danger of the yoke of Antichristian tyranny; to joyne in the same or the like Association and Covenant, and to the enlargement of the Kingdom of Jesus Christ, and the peace and tranquillity of Christian Kingdoms and Common-wealths.

